

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 6-17 are allowed.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 3-5 and 18-22 are amended. Reconsideration based on the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 and 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,201,612 to Matsushiro et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Matsushiro discloses all elements recited in claims 1-5 and 18-22. Applicants respectfully submit that Matsushiro does not disclose or suggest converting input data into grayscale data which specifies a grayscale of an image output apparatus according to a display capability of the image output apparatus, as recited in claim 1, and similarly recited in claims 3-5 and 18-22.

Matsushiro discloses detecting and preventing possible problems associated with an edge contained in a block of data. See col. 5, lines 4-6. Matsushiro discloses a selector 8 that calculates the absolute value of the difference between the values of the pixels of the two corners on each of the four sides of the block. See Fig. 5 and col. 5, lines 10-18. The difference is calculated as a quantization error and is compared with an edge threshold value. See col. 3, lines 30-35 and col. 5, lines 10-18.

Applicants respectfully submit that Matsushiro discloses detecting potential problems caused by a large difference in pixel values as a quantization error of a block. Matsushiro does not disclose or suggest detecting a defect caused by input data of an individual pixel that corresponds to a specific grayscale value. In addition, Matsushiro does not disclose or suggest converting the input data input grayscale data according to a display capacity of an image output apparatus. Therefore, Matsushiro does not disclose or suggest converting input data input grayscale data which specifies a grayscale of an image output apparatus according

to a display capacity of the image output apparatus, as recited in claim 1, and similarly recited in claims 3-5 and 18-22.

For at least the above reasons, Matsushiro does not disclose each and every element recited in claims 1, 3-5 and 18-22. Applicants further assert that claim 2 is patentable by virtue of its dependence on claim 1, as well as for additional features it recites.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5 and 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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